

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

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R 101717Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1134

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: US, UK, PO, XA

SUBJECT: BRITISH ENCOURAGEMENT OF MEETING BETWEEN
SECRETARY AND PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: LONDON 6697

1. BRITISH HAVE AGAIN RAISED DESIRABILITY OF MEETING
BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES.
IN CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM, ALAN
CAMPBELL, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO, NOTED THAT WHEN
SOARES MET FONSECA CALLAGHAN ON MAY 26, SOARES SAID HE
WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH SECRETARY
SOME TIME DURING PERIOD OF NATO MEETING AT OTTAWA.
SOARES SAID HE WOULD BE IN OTTAWA BETWEEN JUNE 17 AND 25.

2. ACCORDING TO CAMPBELL, CALLAGHAN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF
SUCH MEETING BUT DID NOT RAISE WITH SECRETARY DUE TO
CALLAGHAN'S UNDERSTANDING SECRETARY PREOCCUPIED WITH
MIDDLE EAST. BRITISH ARE CONVINCED THAT SUCH MEETING
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WOULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC POLITICAL

SCENE AND IN PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEADERS OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT WOULD BE HIGHLY FAVORABLE FOR NATO INTERESTS. BRITISH ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE US PARTICIPATE IN ENCOURAGEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS, BOTH DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST AND MODERATE, IN PORTUGAL IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE POLARIZATION WHICH BRITISH BELIEVE COULD WELL PROVOKE COUNTER-COUP. ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH BRITISH FEEL WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL IS SOARES' NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEADERS OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. PRIVATE MEETING FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND SOARES, BRITISH ARE STRONGLY CONVINCED, WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECT FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN BOTH DOMAINS. IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE US INTEREST AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THOSE TRYING TO BUILD PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL AND AT SAME TIME SHOW US SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN AFRICA.

3. WHILE WE OBVIOUSLY DEFER TO EMBASSY LISBON'S JUDGMENT ON DESIRABILITY OF SUCH MEETING, WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE BRITISH CONCERN THAT US DO MORE TO STRENGTHEN THOSE ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL WHOSE POLICIES WOULD PERMIT COMPLETE PORTUGUESE INTEGRATION IN ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES. WE ALSO NOTE THAT SECRETARY IS SCHEDULED TO SEE SOARES IN OTTAWA.

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